

Rule 24. Briefs.

(a) Brief of the appellant. The brief of the appellant shall contain under appropriate headings and in the order indicated:

(a)(1) A complete list of all parties to the proceeding in the court or agency whose judgment or order is sought to be reviewed, except where the caption of the case on appeal contains the names of all such parties. The list should be set out on a separate page which appears immediately inside the cover.

(a)(2) A table of contents, including the contents of the addendum, with page references. (a)(3) A table of authorities with cases alphabetically arranged and with parallel citations, rules, statutes and other authorities cited, with references to the pages of the brief where they are cited.

(a)(4) A brief statement showing the jurisdiction of the appellate court.

(a)(5) A statement of the issues presented for review, including for each issue: the standard of appellate review with supporting authority; and

(a)(5)(A) citation to the record showing that the issue was preserved in the trial court; or

(a)(5)(B) a statement of grounds for seeking review of an issue not preserved in the trial court.

(a)(6) Constitutional provisions, statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations whose interpretation is determinative of the appeal or of central importance to the appeal shall be set out verbatim with the appropriate citation. If the pertinent part of the provision is lengthy, the citation alone will suffice, and the provision shall be set forth in an addendum to the brief under paragraph (11) of this rule.

(a)(7) A statement of the case. The statement shall first indicate briefly the nature of the case, the course of proceedings, and its disposition in the court below. A statement of the facts relevant to the issues presented for review shall follow. All statements of fact and references to the proceedings below shall be supported by citations to the record in accordance with paragraph (e) of this rule.

(a)(8) Summary of arguments. The summary of arguments, suitably paragraphed, shall be a succinct condensation of the arguments actually made in the body of the

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brief. It shall not be a mere repetition of the heading under which the argument is arranged.

(a)(9) An argument. The argument shall contain the contentions and reasons of the appellant with respect to the issues presented, including the grounds for reviewing any issue not preserved in the trial court, with citations to the authorities, statutes, and parts of the record relied on. A party challenging a fact finding must first marshal all record evidence that supports the challenged finding. A party seeking to recover attorney's fees incurred on appeal shall state the request explicitly and set forth the legal basis for such an award.

(a)(10) A short conclusion stating the precise relief sought.

(a)(11) An addendum to the brief or a statement that no addendum is necessary under this paragraph. The addendum shall be bound as part of the brief unless doing so makes the brief unreasonably thick. If the addendum is bound separately, the addendum shall contain a table of contents. The addendum shall contain a copy of:

(a)(11)(A) any constitutional provision, statute, rule, or regulation of central importance cited in the brief but not reproduced verbatim in the brief;

(a)(11)(B) in cases being reviewed on certiorari, a copy of the Court of Appeals opinion; in all cases any court opinion of central importance to the appeal but not available to the court as part of a regularly published reporter service; and

(a)(11)(C) those parts of the record on appeal that are of central importance to the determination of the appeal, such as the challenged instructions, findings of fact and conclusions of law, memorandum decision, the transcript of the court's oral decision, or the contract or document subject to construction.

(b) Brief of the appellee. The brief of the appellee shall conform to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this rule, except that the appellee need not include:

(b)(1) a statement of the issues or of the case unless the appellee is dissatisfied with the statement of the appellant; or

(b)(2) an addendum, except to provide material not included in the addendum of the appellant. The appellee may refer to the addendum of the appellant.

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(c) Reply brief. The appellant may file a brief in reply to the brief of the appellee, and if the appellee has cross-appealed, the appellee may file a brief in reply to the response of the appellant to the issues presented by the cross-appeal. Reply briefs shall be limited to answering any new matter set forth in the opposing brief. The content of the reply brief shall conform to the requirements of paragraph (a)(2), (3), (9), and (10) of this rule. No further briefs may be filed except with leave of the appellate court.

(d) References in briefs to parties. Counsel will be expected in their briefs and oral arguments to keep to a minimum references to parties by such designations as "appellant" and "appellee." It promotes clarity to use the designations used in the lower court or in the agency proceedings, or the actual names of parties, or descriptive terms such as "the employee," "the injured person," "the taxpayer," etc.

(e) References in briefs to the record. References shall be made to the pages of the original record as paginated pursuant to Rule 11(b) or to pages of any statement of the evidence or proceedings or agreed statement prepared pursuant to Rule 11(f) or 11(g). References to pages of published depositions or transcripts shall identify the sequential number of the cover page of each volume as marked by the clerk on the bottom right corner and each separately numbered page(s) referred to within the deposition or transcript as marked by the transcriber. References to exhibits shall be made to the exhibit numbers. If reference is made to evidence the admissibility of which is in controversy, reference shall be made to the pages of the record at which the evidence was identified, offered, and received or rejected.

(f) Length of briefs. Except by permission of the court, principal briefs shall not exceed 50 pages, and reply briefs shall not exceed 25 pages, exclusive of pages containing the table of contents, tables of citations and any addendum containing statutes, rules, regulations, or portions of the record as required by paragraph (a) of this rule. In cases involving cross-appeals, paragraph (g) of this rule sets forth the length of briefs.

(g) Briefs in cases involving cross-appeals. If a cross-appeal is filed, the party first filing a notice of appeal shall be deemed the appellant for the purposes of this rule and Rule 26, unless the parties otherwise agree or the court otherwise orders. The brief of

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the appellant shall not exceed 50 pages in length. The brief of the appellee/cross-appellant shall contain the issues and arguments involved in the cross-appeal as well as the answer to the brief of the appellant and shall not exceed 50 pages in length. The appellant shall then file a brief which contains an answer to the original issues raised by the appellee/cross-appellant and a reply to the appellee's response to the issues raised in the appellant's opening brief. The appellant's second brief shall not exceed 25 pages in length. The appellee/cross-appellant may then file a second brief, not to exceed 25 pages in length, which contains only a reply to the appellant's answers to the original issues raised by the appellee/cross-appellant's first brief. The lengths specified by this rule paragraph are exclusive of table of contents, table of authorities, and addenda ~~and may be exceeded only by permission of the court. The court shall grant reasonable requests, for good cause shown.~~

(h) Permission for over length brief. While such motions are disfavored, the court for good cause shown may upon motion permit a party to file a brief that exceeds the limitations of this rule. The motion shall state with specificity the issues to be briefed, the number of additional pages requested, and the good cause for granting the motion. A motion filed at least seven days before the date the brief is due or seeking five or fewer additional pages need not be accompanied by a copy of the brief. A motion filed less than seven days before the date the brief is due and seeking more than 5 additional pages shall be accompanied by a copy of the draft brief for in camera inspection. If the motion is granted, any responding party is entitled to an equal number of additional pages without further order of the court. Whether the motion is granted or denied, the draft brief will be destroyed by the court.

~~(h)~~ (i) Briefs in cases involving multiple appellants or appellees. In cases involving more than one appellant or appellee, including cases consolidated for purposes of the appeal, any number of either may join in a single brief, and any appellant or appellee may adopt by reference any part of the brief of another. Parties may similarly join in reply briefs.

~~(i)~~ (j) Citation of supplemental authorities. When pertinent and significant authorities come to the attention of a party after that party's brief has been filed, or after oral

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argument but before decision, a party may promptly advise the clerk of the appellate court, by letter setting forth the citations. An original letter and nine copies shall be filed in the Supreme Court. An original letter and seven copies shall be filed in the Court of Appeals. There shall be a reference either to the page of the brief or to a point argued orally to which the citations pertain, but the letter shall without argument state the reasons for the supplemental citations. Any response shall be made within 7 days of filing and shall be similarly limited.

(j) (k) Requirements and sanctions. All briefs under this rule must be concise, presented with accuracy, logically arranged with proper headings and free from burdensome, irrelevant, immaterial or scandalous matters. Briefs which are not in compliance may be disregarded or stricken, on motion or sua sponte by the court, and the court may assess attorney fees against the offending lawyer.

Advisory Committee Note. Rule 24 (a)(9) now reflects what Utah appellate courts have long held. See *In re Beesley*, 883 P.2d 1343, 1349 (Utah 1994); *Newmeyer v. Newmeyer*, 745 P.2d 1276, 1278 (Utah 1987). "To successfully appeal a trial court's findings of fact, appellate counsel must play the devil's advocate. 'Attorneys must extricate themselves from the client's shoes and fully assume the adversary's position. In order to properly discharge the marshalling duty..., the challenger must present, in comprehensive and fastidious order, every scrap of competent evidence introduced at trial which supports the very findings the appellant resists.'" *ONEIDA/SLIC, v. ONEIDA Cold Storage and Warehouse, Inc.*, 872 P.2d 1051, 1052-53 (Utah App. 1994) (alteration in original)(quoting *West Valley City v. Majestic Inv. Co.*, 818 P.2d 1311, 1315 (Utah App. 1991)). See also *State ex rel. M.S. v. Salata*, 806 P.2d 1216, 1218 (Utah App. 1991); *Bell v. Elder*, 782 P.2d 545, 547 (Utah App. 1989); *State v. Moore*, 802 P.2d 732, 738-39 (Utah App. 1990).

The brief must contain for each issue raised on appeal, a statement of the applicable standard of review and citation of supporting authority.